

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ERIC K.
SHINSEKI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity today to honor General Eric K. Shinseki, the 34th Chief of Staff of the United States Army. I have had the privilege of working with General Shinseki over these past 4 years, as he set forth a vision, and then followed with a plan of execution, that will culminate in a complete Transformation of the premier land force in the world today—The United States Army.

General Eric K. Shinseki is a soldier General, a soldier's soldier. He began his Army career after graduating from the United States Military Academy in 1965. He served two combat tours in the Republic of Vietnam. I should note that this officer has been carried off the battlefield on the backs of soldiers. It is because of these soldiers, that he has served so long, and with so much distinction. Despite receiving serious wounds in battle, General Shinseki remained on active duty out of his utmost respect for the young, American soldier he encountered in Vietnam. While he may not have been aware at that time, the experience he garnered under the tutelage of non-commissioned officers as a new officer instilled the discipline and direction that would ultimately place him as The Army's "point man". General Shinseki excelled at every level, in command and in staff positions, both in the continental United States and overseas. He commanded the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, became Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans at Headquarters Department of the Army, served as the Commanding General, United States Army Europe, Commander Allied Land Forces Central Europe; and Commander, NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 1998, he assumed the duties as the 28th Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

On June 22, 1999, General Shinseki became the Chief of Staff of the United States Army. Since assuming that position, General Shinseki's commitment and leadership have contributed immeasurably to ensuring that America's Army is unmatched by any in our history in its skill and professionalism. General Shinseki began a transformation that will fundamentally reform the Army and position it for continuing excellence and achievement in the coming decades. The path of Transformation is one that is filled with challenges, and unexpected events. While he was charting a course for the Army's Transformation, General Shinseki was charged with ensuring The Army was again prepared to go in to battle. At the onset, the Global War on Terrorism began to consume assets. Quickly on the heels of this, was Operation Noble Eagle—the defense of the American Homeland, in Operation Enduring Freedom—the attack on Al Qaeda's lair, and Operation Iraqi Freedom—the liberation of Iraq. These events served as a galvanizing catalyst to General Shinseki's vision for Transformation. The Army was now one Army, at war and transforming. Whether active, National Guard, or Reserve, it is one Army. Throughout all this, General Shinseki has provided a steady hand that as a result leaves

the Army, and its men and women, in one of the highest states of readiness ever.

After more than 35 years service to the nation, General Shinseki will retire from the United States Army this month. Throughout that entire period, General Shinseki's actions have epitomized those of a soldier, leader, and consummate professional. Always mission-focused and soldier-centered, he upheld the Army's non-negotiable mission contract with the American people to fight and win the nation's wars, while never forgetting that it is the sacrifice and skill of the American soldier that makes those victories possible.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of this great country charges this body to raise and support Armies. The Transformation that is underway in our Army is one that is steeped in history, and fraught with vision. While we are charged to raise an Army, it is an officer of such caliber as General Shinseki's, who will ensure its training, its readiness, its ability to answer when the country calls. As we have witnessed since September 11, 2001, the freedoms we enjoy, come at a price. Our nation has been fortunate to have men and women willing to come forward at times of crisis and challenge to pay that price. We now add another name to that distinguished list; General Eric K. Shinseki. It is through dedication, and the selfless devotion to duty of Americans like him, that our nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy. To provide global response and assistance when and where needed. It is with profound admiration and deep appreciation that I pay tribute to General Shinseki for all that he has done for the United States Army and this country. To General Eric K. Shinseki, the 34th Chief of Staff of The United States Army, on behalf of this Congress, and of a grateful nation, Thank you for your service.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL DUANE A. GAMBLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Duane A. Gamble for his brave service in the United States Military during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lieutenant Colonel Gamble graduated from Western Maryland College in 1985 with the honor of a Distinguished Military Graduate. After graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Ordnance in the Regular Army. Lieutenant Colonel Gamble then attended the Florida Institute of Technology, earning a Masters of Science in Logistics Management in 1994. He has also completed many courses in military education during his time of service.

In the past 18 years, Lieutenant Colonel Gamble has served in a variety of logistics posts including Platoon Leader, Forward Area Support Coordinator and Support Operations Officer, Executive Officer and Logistics Operations Officer, and Deputy Commander. He currently holds the position of Commander of the Taskmaster Battalion and Commander of the Bastogne Brigade Support Area. His fine service has been recognized with awards and

decorations that include the Bronze Star Medal, the Master Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Gamble has served bravely in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Hurricane Andrew Disaster Relief, Operation Joint Endeavor, and, most recently Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has repeatedly demonstrated his devotion and commitment to this nation and stood boldly in defense of a free world. He is an admirable role model for his two young daughters and for all American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the gratitude of myself and an entire nation to Lieutenant Colonel Duane A. Gamble for his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his courageous efforts and wishing him well in his next assignment as Assistant Chief of Staff for the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to the House-Senate agreement on H.R. 2, the so-called Growth and Jobs Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

The only growth this conference report will ensure is the most dramatic growth in our national debt in this nation's history. It is ironic that as soon as the House votes on this legislation, we will adjourn for the Memorial Day District Work Period to allow the Senate to rubber stamp an increase in the debt ceiling of almost \$1 trillion dollars, with no discussion by this House.

For me, this is not a partisan issue. I voted for the President's \$1.35 trillion tax cut in 2001 because I believed it was the right thing to do. At that time CBO projected our surplus over ten years at \$5.6 trillion. I still believe it was the right thing to do then. But that was then. This is now. We are no longer in revenue surplus mode. Now we are in deficit mode. And the \$350 billion tax cut passed by Congress will now go straight to our bottom line—the \$6.4 trillion national debt. In fact, the Senate will have to increase the debt limit by \$984 billion in order to pass this tax cut. This tax cut is being paid for with borrowed money. And, every penny of this tax cut will be paid for by our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I do not oppose tax cuts. I oppose borrowing money to pay for tax cuts.

We are running the largest deficits in history and compiling a debt whose interest payment consumes almost 18 percent of every tax dollar collected. I call this a "debt tax" and this is the only tax that can never be repealed.

The debt tax costs our country \$1 billion per day and accounts for one of the largest expenditures by our government, third only to Social Security and national defense. And I submit that by passing this bill, we will be passing the largest tax increase—in the form of the debt tax—in history.

The best way to ensure that we, as well as our children and our grandchildren, are all